

REMARKS

In response to the pending Office Action, Applicants have amended claims 12-14 and 18, and have added new claims 22-26. More specifically, claims 12-14 have been amended such that the preamble of the claim properly references independent claim 11. Claim 18 has been amended to recite an additional process step associated with the present invention in order to overcome the statutory double patenting rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Support for the amendment to claim 18 can be found throughout the specification as well as original claim 8. Support for new claims 22-26 can be found in the specification and original claims 8 and 18-21. No new matter has been added.

It is noted that the Applicants are filing a Terminal Disclaimer concurrently herewith so as to overcome the doubling patenting rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 8-10 and 15-16. Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter being recited by claims 5, 7, 11-14 and 17.

It is also noted that an Information Disclosure Statement was filed January 6, 2004 along with a corresponding PTO-1449 form. It is respectfully requested that the PTO-1449 form be initialed and returned to the Applicants so that the Applicants may confirm that the references cited therein have been considered during prosecution. If for any reason the Examiner does not have a copy of the IDS, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney so that a copy of the IDS may be provided.

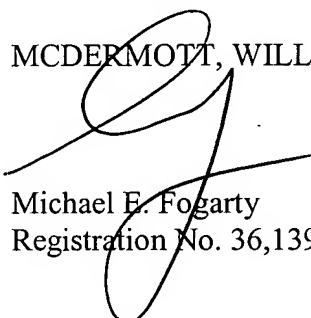
In view of the foregoing amendment of claim 18 and the filing of the Terminal Disclaimer it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited.

If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

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